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Celebrating summer
People take in a beautiful summer evening during Rotary's weekly Music in the Park at Head Lake on July 29. /ADAM FRISK staff

Dysart moving ahead with proposed changes to shoreline protections policy

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The Municipality of Dysart et al is moving ahead with its proposed changes to the shoreline protections policy, allowing for the building of sheds, saunas and gazebos on privately-owned shorelines.

During a July 22 council meeting, the municipality opted to move forward with the proposed changes to the shoreline protection policies of the Municipal Official Plan and Zoning By-law, allowing for one building near the shoreline of a body of water. Current setbacks are 20-30 metres.

Director of planning and land information Jeff Iles presented a report with two recommendations following the feedback from the public open house held on July 8. The first option was to proceed with the policy changes, with a few recommendations from Iles and his staff, and a second option of withdrawing the amendments.

"I have reviewed the public comments received to date, including the results of the public questionnaire. The volume and quality of feedback received has been great, I got to say. This is clearly

see 'COMMUNITY' page 12

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MooseFM Radiothon ready to rock and roll for HHHS

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The Haliburton Highlands Health Servicess annual MooseFM Health Radiothon is set to take over the airwaves next week, and this year donations will be matched thanks to one local family.

The radiothon is set to take place on Aug. 14 and 15 and all donations made during that time will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $100,000, thanks to a family who have spent many years in the area.

"We're excited that we have a family of longtime cottagers in the Haliburton area who stepped up to make a matching challenge to the community," said HHHSF's executive director Melanie Klodt Wong. "Looking to double that match and raise as much as possible."

The focus of this year's fundraising effort is on life-saving emergency equipment that are needed for the hospital services to allow for residents and visitors to get the critical care they need, Klodt Wong said.

The family, represented by the WB Family Foundation, has spent several winters and summers in the area and understands the importance of having emergency care.

"Our family has cherished the beauty and peace of the Haliburton Highlands for generations," said a representative of The WB Family Foundation in a statement. "This community has given us so much over the years, and we want to help ensure that everyone here - residents and visitors alike - can count on excellent emergency care when they need it most."

Longtime sponsor of the MooseFM Health Radiothon, Minden Subaru, is also back this year to help drive donations for the 24-hour fundraiser, along with hourly sponsors, the community is also welcomed to challenge each other to support and donate to the cause.

> *"The need just continues, there's always going to be more ...*
>
> — Melanie Klodt Wong, Haliburton Highlands Health Service Foundation

"We're giving the community more opportunities and more places where they can do that this year," Klodt Wong said.

Donation booths will be set up at a number of locations throughout the community including Tim Hortons in Minden and Haliburton, both Foodland locations and Todd's Independent in Haliburton and of course MooseFM.

The radiothon comes on the heels of another successful fundraising initiative with the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic raising more than $234,000 for the hospital foundation last month. The two events provide different opportunities for the community to raise money for HHHS. These events are critical for the foundation to help ensure it gets the funding it needs to be able to provide important life-saving and long-term health care to the community.

"The need just continues, there's always going to be more," Klodt Wong explained. "We want to make sure that we are raising enough money to really support the needs of health care that are not supported by the government. All the things that we are raising money for are not paid for by other means. There is that expectation on every community to raise money for all the items in the health-care system the government doesn't fund.

"The easiest way to look at that is that you take a hospital and turn it upside down and everything that falls out is funded by the community," Klodt Wong said.

Funds raised this year will be used to update and acquire prioritized equipment in the emergency and acute care department, Klodt Wong explained. Various equipment to the likes of an ECG machine and a vital signs machine are both needed.

The radiothon will feature interviews with people who are both using these machines and the impact of having life-saving care.

"It's an exciting time," MooseFM's Morning Show host Rick Lowes said. "We are six to six both days and we'll be talking with health-care professionals, doctors, nurses, PSWs, you name it.

"People from the foundation as well, people who have experienced or used the equipment. We talk to staff, politicians, it's a packed event," the radio host said.

People looking to make a donation during the radiothon can call 705-457-1580 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug 14 and 15.

County council welcomes new police sergeant

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The regular meeting of county council on July 23 started off on a positive note, with the welcoming of the new OPP Detachment Commander Staff Sergeant Deb McClure.

McClure began her career in 2002, at the young age of 19. "Still not really sure what I was doing but knew I wanted to be a police officer. Always have," she said. "That's been a dream of mine." She started with the Toronto Police, specializing in the Jane and Finch region for three years.

While she noted that working with the OPP was the ultimate goal, at the time, the organization was in a hiring freeze, so she navigated next steps, and decided to return to her small town roots. "I knew I wanted to do the small town policing," she said, noting that Orangeville had their own police services at the time.

Here, she did eight years with that department, with a specific focus on the crime unit, where she worked a series of major homicides.

By 2011, she was transferred over to the OPP, but at the time, was in the midst of working on a major homicide case, which she worked on until 2014. She was then transferred to Wellington region, and stayed in the area for three years.

"I am very passionate about helping and training our members," said McClure to council, "I think it's very important, especially now, with a lot of junior members with our retirements, so I wanted to get into our training bureau."

She began work as a constable with a training unit and was quickly promoted to sergeant. "But after years of doing that, I decided I wanted to do more for our members," she said. "And I wanted to give back a little bit more as well. Mental health is very near and dear to me."

She applied for a staff sergeant role in Kincardine/Walkerton area, where she was successfully promoted there, and did 18 months in that region before applying to work in the Haliburton Highlands.

"Why here?" laughed McClure, noting the most frequent question she has been asked as of late. Quite simply, she has ties to the area, and memories of spending time with her family on Paudash Lake, near Bancroft. "I spent every summer there as a teenager," she said. "I just loved it. I always said to my dad, 'I'm going to be there one day.'"

McClure acknowledged her two children, a 21 year old daughter in university, and a son who has recently graduated from high school in June. She shared that she waited for her kids to be grown before changing locations, so when the job posting for staff sergeant came up this past spring, she jumped on it. "I am loving every second of being a part of this community," she said. "I am super excited to be here, and excited to know the officers more here."

"Am I going to stay?" she laughed. "That's the next question. All I can say is that I moved four hours from my kids and my dad to be here. I want to be here."

Editor's note:

Please note that in order to accommodate printing times around the long weekend, this edition of the newspaper went to press Friday, Aug. 1, prior to the holiday. Photos and stories from the long weekend will be featured in the next edition of the newspaper.

Summer sounds

Singer-songwriter Shannon Butcher performs with Michael Shand during Rotary's weekly Music in the Park at Head Lake on July 29. /ADAM FRISK staff

A large pole toppled onto the Dominion patio on July 30, thankfully prior to the dinner rush. The owners of the Dominion are currently seeking the owner of the mystery pole. /submitted

When a pole falls … excitement at the Dominion Hotel

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

A great mystery has presented itself at the Dominion Hotel in downtown Minden.

And this time, it's not related to ghosts or historical figures.

This time, it's a pole.

Just before the July 30 evening dinner service at the well-known community hub, a large pole crashed down onto the outdoor patio, to the right of the building. "This is the most popular place for folks to sit on the whole patio," said Shawn Chamberlin, Dominion Hotel owner. "Very fortunate it wasn't an hour later when the patio was packed. This patio is the home for many live music events throughout the summer and is popular as an afternoon gathering spot."

Multiple firetrucks arrived at the scene and had the road shut down. Hydro One also arrived, but noted that the pole did not belong to them. "We've tried on numerous occasions to find the owner of this pole," said Chamberlin. "Hydro One says that although it has their service including a disconnect and plugs at one time, the pole isn't theirs."

Chamberlin also noted a flashing caution and stop light that sits atop the pole, so he thought it could belong to the Township of Minden Hills or the County of Haliburton, but he said that both have denied ownership. "Bell Canada does not own the pole," he said. "It certainly doesn't belong to the Dominion Hotel although it is on their land."

So where did it come from? At the scene last Wednesday, Hydro workers speculated that the pole is likely from the 1950s, as it is made of cedar and not pressure treated. "Stories we've heard are that it may have had something to do with a speaker for the street for music and for announcements made for the Sled Dog races," said Chamberlin.

The pole was built into the Dominion patio when they expanded and renovated the space a few years ago. The search for the owner of the pole has been going on for years, but Chamberlin is grateful that the rotted pole did not do more damage than it did. "Whatever the story, we are so relieved that there were no patrons sitting in this area," he said. "The pole has been removed and traffic restored. We're so glad that there were no injuries from this."

If you have insight into the owner of the pole or the history of its placement, reach out to emily@haliburtonpress.com. "I'd love to solve the mystery of the pole," said Chamberlin.

People take in a beautiful summer evening during Rotary's weekly Music in the Park./ADAM FRISK staff

People power; starting conversations for next election

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While Shay Hutchings and Jessica Slade exist in entirely different professional realms, they realized that they have one thing in common: the ability to get people to talk.

Hutchings is a registered massage therapist, and co-owner of Reform and Restore Wellness Hub, and Slade is a policy analyst who works out of Ottawa, and has a background in government with degrees in political science and non-profit leadership.

Both women call Haliburton home, and recently, their worlds began to overlap. On the cusp of the most recent provincial election, Slade kicked off *Civics with Slade*, an online platform dedicated to making politics accessible for all those interested.

During a routine work-out class leading up to the election, conversations around politics started to come to the forefront. Slade was participating in the class, and was happy to unpack the questions. "I was one of those people," laughed Hutchings. "I didn't understand it. Didn't even understand how our own government worked, let alone the federal government. So I asked Jess to grab a coffee so we could talk."

This was the start of it all.

Slade and Hutchings realized that there were likely others in the community who not only fell through the gaps of understanding, but also had big dreams, big ideas, big visions for their communities, but may not know where to take those thoughts. "It makes you feel like you have so much more control once you understand how it all works," said Hutchings.

Shay Hutchings and Jessica Slade hosted the first Lead Local event this past week for women and gender-diverse individuals in Haliburton County. The duo hope to offer more sessions to connect local individuals, and enhance conversations leading up to the next municipal election. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

On July 28, Hutchings and Slade opened up the Reform and Restore Wellness Hub to women and gender-diverse individuals to dive into those big topics.

"We want it to be comfortable," said Slade. "When you have a group of women together who feel like they're in a safe space, they really open up."

Slade started the evening with a breakdown of local governmental structure, before exploring the depth and breadth of government responsibilities, right up to the federal level. "Everything is political," noted Slade. "And with a municipal election coming up next year, if you want to take it seriously, now is the time."

With over 30 attendees, the evening welcomed a cross-section of ages, backgrounds, and ties to the community. Some noted that they were born and raised in the Haliburton Highlands, while others had just recently settled in the area.

Slade and Hutchings noted that in their two careers - politics and health - they both have access to individuals opening up to them, sharing their thoughts, and seeking transparency around political decisions. This was what made them realize that this is a community who cares, and wants to learn more. "Tonight is about listening, sharing, and connecting," said Slade. "There is power in gathering similar people."

The groups were posed with questions around affordable housing, transportation, environmental accessibility, and mental health. A recurring topic that rose to the forefront a number of times was access to childcare, where individuals piped up with some outside-the-box ideas and initiatives that could be applied to the Haliburton Highlands.

Slade and Hutchings took notes over the course of the evening, and will be composing a list of suggestions and recommendations to county council, as well as applicable organizations discussed. The duo hope to offer future sessions, in an effort to get civilians present and active in local politics and decisions.

"Gaining knowledge around these topics makes you feel like you have a little more power," said Hutchings. "And there is power in gathering together, and just talking."

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Kate's Burger Counter owner Tanya Smith poses for a photo outside her restaurant on July 21, 2025, as she reflects on her past few years of change. /ADAM FRISK staff

Kate's Burger Counter navigating change while honouring a legacy

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

As Kate's Burger Counter marks five years in operation, owner Tanya Smith is navigating change while making sure to honour an important legacy in the face of a "new normal."

Sitting at a picnic table overlooking Kashagawigamog Lake on a refreshingly cool summer morning, Smith reflects on the ups and downs of the last half-decade.

"It's been sometimes great, and sometimes uncertain," Smith said in a July 21 interview. "The demographics change up here all the time."

Smith said sales were slow in May and June and this month is on par for July of last year which was slightly down from previous years.

And on top of that, Smith lost an entire summer in 2023 due to a kitchen fire.

"Even though I am five years in, I only count it actually as three years in the business because the first year was only the ice cream shop during the summer," She said. "I only think that we've been operational with the ice cream and the restaurant both going full blast for three years."

Smith has also endured tragedy since then and has been learning to navigate the change in what she calls a "new normal."

"This is my second year without my partner because he passed away last year," Smith explained.

Life partner Jon Tulk died on April 19, 2024. He was a former teacher and had a big heart and a passion for burgers and cooking.

"I'm navigating," Smith explained. "Last year was by the seat of my pants. This year I'm definitely able to take charge of it and not it take charge of me.

"I'm making it my own but at the same time I am trying to honour Jon's legacy by keeping the burgers."

Kate's Burger Counter, named in honour of Tulk's late sister, prides itself on serving up fresh, hand-made burgers with no binders or fillers and freshly cut fries. Smith has made some tweaks to the menu over time and added a few new items.

"Our sweet potato waffle fries, people were asking for it so I figured why not," Smith said, adding she came up with her own dipping sauce.

"Because everybody does chipotle mayo," She said with a chuckle. "So we came up with maple chili mayo. It's something a little bit different than going to every takeout place and getting sweet potato fries and the usual chipotle mayo.

"Everybody loves it and are addicted to it, like people even ask for it with their chicken tenders," Smith said with a laugh.

A smaller option for onion rings is also now available at the burger joint as well as the popular take-out staple, frings.

Smith said the community is full of passionate and caring people and the restaurateurs are very supportive of one another, often helping each other out in the time of need.

"I helped out Burnt Crust, you know, worked with them for a day," She said. "Dan, the chef at the (Haliburton) Post House, I would work in their dish-pit every once and a while.

"When I had surgery two weeks ago, Dan was actually a chef for me for the day, so the community is fantastic."

And as for Tulk, his legacy will always be a part of Kate's Burger Counter, living on through the burgers.

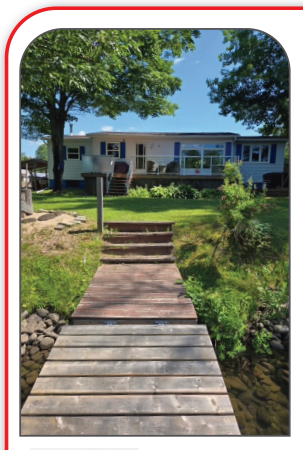
"His legacy is the burger. He was the one who made the burger so we're following his way, keeping it fresh and cut and round," Smith said. "You know, doing the exact same ratios as he did.

"We try to make sure the customer is waiting for the food, not the food waiting for them, it's better hot and fresh," she said.

As for having any regrets?

"I mean, look at this view. I get to wake up to this every morning and go to bed to it every night."

Kate's Burger Counter is located at 1184 Kashagawigamog Lake Road in Minden.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Questions

WE DON'T know everything.

Yes, perhaps a startling realization. I wrote a few weeks ago about how there is always more to every story, how there is power in seeking further information.

And this past week, when I attended the Lead Local event, I realized the strength in gathering a room full of people who recognize the need for change.

And I shy away from the term 'like-minded people,' because they were not liked-minded. Perhaps the only common denominator with the individuals in that room was their interest in progress, in change, in making the community better.

But their backgrounds, their experiences, their ages, their orientations, their outlooks, were varied.

Even their breadth and depth of knowledge was different. The two women who took the lead on the event - Jessica Slade and Shay Hutchings - live in two very different worlds. Slade specializes in political spheres, and Hutchings dedicates her life to navigating physical and mental health for her patients, her people.

So often, we shy away from politics because we don't know. But Hutchings changed that narrative for many. She transparently declared that she didn't know. To a room full of people.

For anyone, that takes strength. For a woman, a gender often overlooked and overpowered if we admit to a gap of vulnerability, that takes a tremendous amount of bravery.

But she opened up the doors to questions. She admitted she didn't know, so she committed to learning. "It gives you power to understand," she said to me.

And how can you understand if you don't know, don't dive into the topic, don't analyze all sides?

There are many topics I have shied away from because I don't know. Women so often fall into a permanent state of imposter syndrome, shying away from topics we can't lean on because it feels we're not even heard during our best of times, why give reason for doubt in others?

But we need to reframe that narrative of not knowing. It's not that we're missing something, it's that we're filling in the gaps. It's not that we're unintelligent, it's that we're still learning. It's not that we're shying away from knowledge, it's that we're building up the courage to find out more.

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

Right now, everyone should be committing to learning more about climate change, about the decisions our politicians are making at every level of government, about the upcoming local election, about what is happening in Gaza, and how our dismissal of international events we don't know about, does impact the lives of fellow human beings, an ocean away.

A state of unknown is not a weakness, it's a strength. There is power in vulnerability, courage in asking questions.

Because we don't know everything. And while that can come as a startling realization to some, is apparent to others.

So let's commit to learning more; filling those gaps of the unknown and pushing ourselves to be individuals who care about more than what's happening right in front of us.

There's a world out there that can teach us so much, but only if we're ready to listen.

It's not a date

IF YOU'VE ever had to use Microsoft Excel, you've probably entered a number into a cell and had the program change it into a date. Or you've tried to put a date into a cell and Excel turned it into a different date. There are ways to prevent this annoyance if you dig into Excel's settings a little, but most people open up a piece of software expecting it to just … work.

The automatic conversion of numbers to dates in Excel has been causing problems in the field of genomics. When genes are discovered, they are given an alphanumeric symbol often referring to whatever protein the gene encodes. Genes that encode septins, for example, might be named SEPT1, SEPT2, SEPT3, and so on. That is, until they are loaded into an Excel spreadsheet where SEPT1 becomes 01-Sep, the short date format for September 1.

Erin Kernohan-Berning

Humans & Technology

In 2004, the National Institute of Health raised the alarm that using Excel in bioinformatics research could result in errors because of this date conversion. In 2020, the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC) introduced new naming conventions including renaming the SEPT genes to SEPTIN to be more resilient to Excel's automatic data conversion features. Since the new naming conventions, 27 genes have been renamed.

According to an article on Retraction Watch by Mandhri Abeysooriya and Mark Ziemann, between 2014 and 2020 31 per cent of 11,000 articles published had Excel related errors in their supplemental data. The issue continues to be so prevalent that Ziemann maintains an online dashboard with monthly reports on how many Excel gene lists have been found to contain date conversion errors, as well as errors if the computer was set to a non-English language.

Reading about this problem reminded me of a story I heard about in university linking Microsoft Power Point to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) undertook a six-month examination of the tragedy that led to the deaths of seven astronauts and the destruction of NASA's flagship shuttle. The cause of the accident was a large piece of foam that had broken off the external fuel tank during launch, striking the leading edge of Columbia's left wing and damaging the thermal tile that would protect the shuttle from the heat and pressure associated with re-entry.

The investigators released a 248-page report that covered everything from material failures to organizational failures that led to the accident. On page 191 of the CAIB report is a scathing analysis by Dr. Edward Tufte (Yale University) of the Power Point slides used by the Debris Assessment Team to communicate the potential extent of the damage to the shuttle. The reliance on Power Point was singled out by the CAIB as contributing to the miscommunication of the true risk of the foam strike to the Columbia crew. Power Point alone obviously didn't determine the outcome of the disaster more than the foam, or the parade of decisions that resulted in allowing a fatally damaged shuttle to re-enter Earth's atmosphere. But it certainly became a bullet point in that piece of history.

Some of the genes that have been renamed by the HGNC serve important roles in research. Errors in SEPTIN1 have been implicated in Alzheimer's disease. MARCHF1 (formerly MARCH1) encodes a protein in the body that can also be a tumour promoter, so is a possible therapeutic target for cancer treatment. So, Excel accidentally destroying research data about these genes is not a small thing.

In 2023, nearly 20 years after researchers discovered the gene to date conversion problem, and three years after genes started to be renamed because of that problem, Microsoft introduced a way to turn off their automatic date conversions. Researchers have also started to create tools to help update old gene datasets at risk of automatic conversion errors.

One lesson we can take from this is the importance of knowing the ins and outs of the tools we are using and understanding how to use them well. This becomes even more important as tools "powered by AI" become increasingly ubiquitous. As humans, we need to be in the driver's seat and to not just accept the default of what our software spits out at us.

Another lesson is that, in the words of Cory Doctorow, "how a system fails is every bit as important as how it works." The consequence of bad design in Power Point shouldn't be fatal, and the consequence of bad design in Excel shouldn't be to render useless a bunch of research that could have led to better cancer treatment. Inasmuch as can be done, software companies do need to understand how their software is being used, and how it failing may impact their users.

points of view

Just great

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

I HAVE Always been fascinated by historical titles. Sulieman the Magnificent, William the Conqueror, and Vlad the Impaler are names that struck fear into me when I was younger, but only when asked to spell them. The names that have truly fascinated me the most, however, are Alexander the Great, followed closely by Catherine the Great, Akbar the Great, Llewellyn the Great, and of course, Tigranes the Great. Who could forget him?

First of all, not one of them is even remotely related. What are the odds of that?

The burning historical question for me is how "the Great" part added to their names?

Did Alexander immediately start at "the Great"? Or did he have to work his way up? Also, was he referred to as a Great Uncle? And did his chariot have GR8! vanity plates?

My guess is that he was just given the title because he was a nepo baby. He was, after all the son of a King.

Whether he was given or earned "the Great" is beside the point, however. The real point is that no one I know has that title, and if social media is any indication, it is not due to modesty.

That's why, I'd like that title myself. But here's the thing. I am not about to ask for a free ride. No sir, I'm willing to start at ground level and work my way up.

So, from here on in, I'd appreciate it if you referred to me as Steve the Unremarkable.

Then, should I do a few columns that are better than expected (which is admittedly a low bar) you might consider referring to me as Steve the Bearable, as a reward.

Yes, it's a long way from there to "the Great," but I'm willing to put in the effort.

Which is why I've put together a five-year plan.

I won't get into the details. But, suffice it to say, by the end of year three, I hope to be known as Steve the Mediocre.

Before you say it, I am aware that this sort of thing can backfire on a person. One or two bad columns could easily saddle me the with moniker of Steve the Nincompoop for life. That, however, is a risk I'm willing to take.

All I'm asking for is a chance.

Yet, if I could ask one more favour, it would be that you coordinated your efforts. It would be confusing and demoralizing to me if I got called Steve the Incompetent and Steve the Untalented in the same day, as happened last Thursday.

Talk amongst yourselves. Pick one.

I also realize that this whole idea hinges upon good people like you reading my column - and, if not you, at least the parrot who is perched over it.

To be clear, I'm not looking to be called Steve the Great – I think that's a lot to ask at this late stage of the game, with my history and all. But would it hurt to call me Steve the Punctual? Or, dare I dream it, Steve the Good Enough?

If you can't honestly bring yourself to eventually referring to me as Steve the Great, here's a more palatable option.

One of my only marketable skills in the kitchen is cheese shredding.

And, you know, Steve the Grate, has a ring to it too ...

pic *of the* past

This pic of the past photo was submitted by Karen Dunsmore (Roberton) of Calgary, Alberta. The teachers of Victoria Street Public School in 1970-1971 were, in back row, from left: Louise Curry, Mary Roberton, Olive Giles, Nick Pawluch, Dennis Baker, Doug Devolin (principal), Jane Cowie and Bonnie Walling. In the front row, from left: Enid Dart, Freida Stewart, Betty Herlihey, Jean Neville, Linda Clarkson and Frances Elstone. /FILE

The money tree

Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

DAVID WATCHED the sun creep above the horizon and then spill like a hot drink across the water. It was going to be another scorcher, he told himself. What he really wanted to do was hop in the boat and go visit the cute redhead he had met the week before. Saturday night dances with a real band had become the way to hang out with his friends, look cool and hopefully impress the ladies with his dance moves.

At least that was the theory. However in fact he usually stood around the perimeter of the dance floor, pretending to be very interested in the band but more interested in the girls dancing with each other. Everyone was trying to connect with a member of the opposite sex but not sure exactly how to do it.

So when David managed to meet someone and exchange cottage details, he was determined to make it happen. The problem was the family's boat was docked with no fuel. When he asked his dad for money to buy more, he got the usual line about how the money tree had died and he'd have to wait for it to grow back again. Ha ha.

He needed to come up with a plan if he didn't want to lose his only chance to actually have a girlfriend. Even a short-lived summer romance would give him some bragging rights with the guys when school returned.

As he sat on the dock, despondent, the frogs in the nearby marsh plopped and grunt sympathetically. Mosquitoes buzzed as David racked his brains for any ideas that would generate gas cash and all that might then follow, romance-wise.

Then something clicked in his brain. Maybe it was the critters with which he was surrounded. Maybe it was the flat-surfaced water in front of him, promising bass hidden in the brown-green depths below. Bait. He could sell bait to the neighbouring cottagers.

Once he had the idea, he went to work. There was a very old but still functional minnow trap under a tarp in the tool shed. Also there was the long-handled shovel, a minnow pail and a few old coffee tins.

He just needed to get to work. After baiting the minnow trap with some bread crusts, he installed it near the dock, tied to a stump. Digging for worms was harder but all he needed was to find a few to spur him on for more. He punched holes in the coffee tin lids and deposited a few leopard frogs along with ripped- up grass. Not a big inventory, but it was a start.

To make a long story short, David spent the rest of the day walking between the cottages. He did surprisingly well. In fact, he sold so much bait that he decided to give another thought to his plans. Maybe the redhead could wait. Instead he might want to acquire more traps for his new enterprise. After all money didn't grow on trees!

letters to the editor

Haliburton health care

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my deepest appreciation for the exceptional care my husband received in a recent emergency situation at our Gooderham home.

From the emergency dispatch centre, paramedics (Chris and Spencer) and volunteer fire department.

Your promptness, knowledge, compassion was certainly demonstrated. They were incredibly competent in what we deemed to be a life altering/emergency situation. The situation being more apparent upon arrival and assessment at Haliburton Emergency, and their interim actions certainly altered the results of what could have been a more dire outcome.

You are true heroes. We greatly appreciate your service and tireless commitment to our community.

To the emergency staff, nurses and doctors with a special mention to Emma, Liz and Dr. Hans and Jackie who accompanied the paramedics with transfer to Newmarket Hospital, thank you for your outstanding care. Your professionalism, compassion and expertise did not go unnoticed.

We want to personally thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care.

Our community is very fortunate to have all of you.

Sharon, Bob and Andrew Goss,
Gooderham

Dysart's proposed shoreline amendments

To the Editor,

Grab a snorkel, put on your goggles and swim the shorelines of Kashagawigamog. You will be amazed. What looks like a mat of weeds looking down from your dock is an underwater forest brilliant in colour and light. Through the strands of green dart silver fish that you can almost touch. Before your eyes will be another world and it will be a world you will believe worth keeping.

It will not take much to keep it. You don't need to plant or tend or till. It will return to you year after year if only you give it a little space. But Dysart council is considering crowding in. It's thinking about allowing gazebos right on the shore so you can get a good look at the water into which the paint will leach. Sheds and saunas would be just a few meters farther back. Under chemical runoff and construction dust I'm not sure I give the forests much of a chance.

Everyone who lives on a lake says that they love their lake. But love is in how you act, not what you say. Dysart council, prove us a place that means what we say. Keep construction off the shore.

Duncan Farthing-Nichol,
Old Donald Road

Community deserves to be heard and seen

To the Editor,

Public consultation is a cornerstone of democratic governance. It ensures decisions reflect community needs and values while protecting health, property, and the environment. Consultations should be inclusive, transparent, and responsive.

I write on behalf of myself, my extended family, and concerned residents living near the proposed Rogers cell tower site (C8590) on Bobcaygeon Rd. We are deeply concerned about its proximity to homes - particularly its impact on young children and those with physician-diagnosed medical vulnerabilities, like myself, who require RF-reduced environments.

This neighborhood is not opposed to connectivity. Residents support responsible, balanced solutions, including fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP), a safe and future-ready technology. Despite strong public opposition to microwave-frequency infrastructure, EORN has not proposed viable alternatives that align with community health and ICT needs.

My in-laws, Ruth and Bill Durkin, live on Mountain Lake. For 30 years, our children have visited their RF-reduced cottage - building treasured memories. They hope to pass it on to family members who also require low-RF environments. A nearby tower would jeopardize this safe space and quality of life.

Residents have formally requested that Minden Hills Council submit a letter of non-concurrence to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). This would formally acknowledge strong public opposition and concerns about the risks of constant, involuntary exposure to microwave radiation - especially in homes with children, and where wired-only connections are in use. Some families will feel forcefully evicted from their homes. The landowner and Town Council could be liable for future class action lawsuits if cluster cancers appear.

Cell towers can't be turned off. Residents would be exposed all day and night (during night time healing sleep), with no way to avoid the signal. Some homes rely solely on wired networks to maintain health and avoid RF exposure. Placing a tower in this location disregards the rights and needs of these families.

Safer technologies exist. Fibre-to-the-premises offers faster, more stable, energy-efficient connectivity, unaffected by weather, and gives households the flexibility to choose between wireless and wired use indoors.

We urge Minden Hills Council to submit a letter of non-concurrence. Doing so will give the town an opportunity to explore safer, community-supported alternatives like FTTP, or satellite services. Council is also responsible for ensuring public consultation protocols are properly completed and publicly recorded. The voices of residents deserve to be heard and preserved.

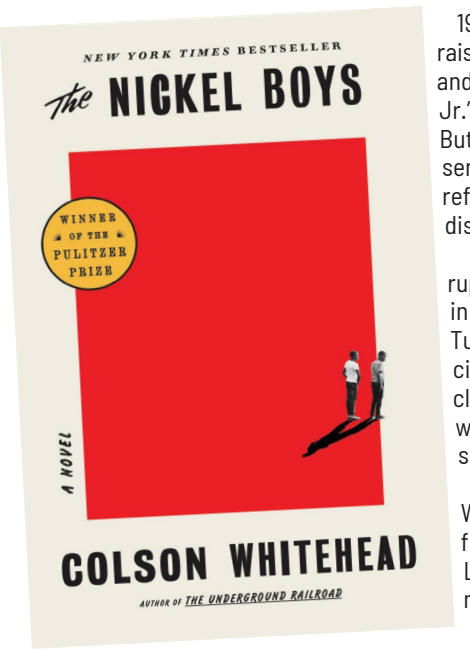
Shelley Wright (B.A., B.Ed.) ,
Minden

Minden Memories

A scene of the Burnt River Station from 1960. The last run of CNR Train M389 from Lindsay to Haliburton paused at Burnt River Station on September 3, 1960, briefly blocking the main street as it waited to continue north. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



1960s Mississippi. Elwood Curtis, raised by his determined grandmother and inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, prepares to start college. But after one innocent mistake, he is sent to the Nickel Academy, a brutal reform school disguised as a place of discipline and learning.

Facing relentless abuse and corruption, Elwood clings to his belief in love and justice, while his friend Turner urges him to embrace cynicism and cruelty to survive. Their clash of ideals sparks a choice that will have decades-long repercussions.

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

County green lights Skyline improvements

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It appears that the next step in the Skyline Park rehabilitation project is moving forward. "It's an exciting project for the club and for the town," said Charles Wheeler, the lead on the initiative, and a member of Haliburton Rotary.

The project has been rolling out for the past few years, with Rotary seeking funding to beautify the viewing platform that looks out over Haliburton Village, as well as add washrooms and accessible information panels.

While the property resides in Dysart et al township, it is owned and maintained by the Ministry of Transportation - a provincial branch of governance.

The multi-tiered realities of altering provincially-owned property has proven tedious, but Haliburton Rotary has not backed down, and recently secured a green-light agreement to install year-round accessible washrooms on the site from the MTO.

The next step was to approach the local government with an ask for providing financial contribution around the information panels. The cost of the panels are $15,000. Haliburton Rotary is requesting they split the costs three ways, with the club paying for one third, and Dysart and the county splitting the remainder. Dysart agreed to allocate $5000 towards the project in their 2026 budget deliberations.

At the regular meeting of county council on July 23, councillors were requested to match Dysart's one third contribution of $5000 in 2026.

Director of economic development, Scott Ovell, went to bat for the project, noting that it aligns with the county's ongoing initiative around destination development. "The only caveat to the report that we're recommending as staff is splitting the financial request over two years," he said. He suggested providing $2500 this year, and the remainder of the ask covered in the 2026 budget. "Given that the project won't take place until 2026, we feel that's appropriate."

The content on the panels is being generated by the manager of tourism for the county, Angelica Ingram, as well as the cultural resources committee for Dysart, with support from the historical centres around the area.

Council accepted the request for the financial support, and the project will be moving ahead accordingly.

Haliburton Rotary approached County Council at the end of July for a request around funding to continue their ongoing projects at Skyline Park in Dysart. /ADAM FRISK staff

Folk Society recipient of grant

The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) is pleased to announce that they will be receiving a grant from the Ontario Arts Council to support some of their live music events in 2025 and 2026.

Shawn Chamberlin, co-chair of HCFS says, "We are thrilled about this recent grant from the Ontario Arts Council. One of the primary objectives of the HCFS is to expand the circle between artists and our audiences, thereby enhancing the overall audience experience and increasing their exposure to artists they might not otherwise encounter. This OAC grant will be a significant asset in achieving this goal." Funds from the grant will be used to offer artist workshops in conjunction with the HCFS's 2025-26 concert series and enable hiring of out-of-province artists for the annual Winter Folk Camp in 2026.

"The Ontario Arts Council has invested over $5000 in the Haliburton County Folk Society, through the Ontario Arts Presenters Project, to help connect artists with rural audiences," said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock. "This funding will strengthen the Society's capacity to deliver accessible, affordable, and engaging music events, including the celebration of the 15th edition of Winter Folk Camp - an inspiring weekend of music, mentorship, and community."

The HCFS has been bringing great live music to the Haliburton Highlands since 1996. The upcoming concert series line up includes artists from a range of genres that have blues, folk, Celtic, roots and country influences. Artists on the schedule are Sandra Bouza, Mimi O'Bonsawin, Union Duke, Minor Gold and Jessica Pearson and the East Wind. Series passes are available online now. Winter Folk Camp XV will take place at YMCA Camp Wanakita on March 6 to 9, 2026. For more information on all HCFS events, visit www.haliburtonfolk.com.

Submitted

MVPs

As these young and passionate athletes head into August and begin the second half of the summer soccer season, the parents and coaches are embracing the growing sense of camaraderie and the strong spirit of teamwork that is steadily developing within each team. Even the lighthearted and friendly banter exchanged with opposing teams, as the summer rotation of match-ups continues week after week, is motivating each player to step up and face the next challenge head-on, whether it comes in the form of fierce competition or the sweltering summer heat. These future pro-stars are beginning to truly understand the value of dedication, as their constant repetition of drills, focused practices, and steady perseverance are starting to produce incredible results on the field. We could not be more proud of this remarkable young generation of soccer players who are aiming high and confidently shooting for the stars.

Submitted by Andrew Brown

Amelia Dawe-Cowen - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Brooks Emmerson - Co-ed 4-6 - Teal Team

Gaelyn Mooney-Monster - Boys 10-13 - Haliburton Crew United

Erin McGregor - Girls 10-11 - Navy team

Ava Jones - Co-ed 4-6 - White Team

Wells Brown - Boys 7-9 - White Team United

Grassroots Soccer proudly sponsored by

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• Ductwork
• Heat Pumps
• Gas Piping
• Boilers
• AND MORE

To become a Grassroots Soccer sponsor contact Andrew Brown at andrew@haliburtoncrew.com

MVPs

Avery Burk - Girls 11-13 - Green team

Scottie Spooner - Co-ed - 4-6 - Purple Team

Hadley Judson + Carter Ouellette - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Sydney Beamer - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Soyer Brown - Boys 10-13 - Grassroot's Swift Strickers

Grayson McDonald - Boys 10-13 - Kegal Kickers

Taylor Boesveld & Madison Duguay - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue

Steven Turcotte - Boys 7-9 - Blue Team

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Andrew Brown

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF
THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**

TIME: **9:05 AM**

LOCATION: **Take notice that the public meeting for zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Applications:

Lands of Anderson – File No. D14-ZB-2025-004

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment will rezone the subject property from Open Space (OS) to Waterfront Residential Type 3 (WR3) zone.

Location: 6051 Haliburton Lake Road, legally described as Part Lot 15, Concession 10, Lot 2, Plan 395, in the Geographic Township of Harburn, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Lands of Jones, Bennett-Jones - File No. D14-ZB-2025-010

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment will rezone the subject property from Rural Type 1 (RU1) to Waterfront Residential Type 4 (WR4). The application is a condition of consent application H-029/24.

Location: 1229 Coleman Lake Road, legally described as Part Lots 21 and 22, Concession 7, Lot 17 and 18, Plan 437, in the Geographic Township of Harburn, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 5th day of August 2025.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

‘Community is divided’ on shoreline changes

from page 1

an important policy topic for the public,” Iles said. “The comments and results of the questionnaire indicate the community is divided on the issue of permitting structures within the setback. The survey results indicate there is openness to limited, low-impact development within the water setback.

“However, a significant portion of residents remain protective of the shoreline,” he said.

The 13-question survey garnered nearly 750 responses with the majority of respondents being land owners and residents of the municipality. A slight majority of 56 per cent said they are in favour of policy change to permit a structure within the current protected shoreline area.

“At the public meeting, more factual evidence was provided that justified maybe keeping the policies as currently written, compared to reasons provided at the meeting to support changing those policies,” Iles said. “I still question whether the slight majority of residents who want to have a building in the water setback warrants changing our well-established shoreline policies that go back to 1977 which are designed to protect our lakes which are part of Dysart’s unique character.”

Iles provided council with eight recommendations should the municipality decide to proceed with the proposed amendments, including prohibiting saunas, moving the minimum setback from three metres to four and prohibiting the storage of vehicles, motor vehicles (including boats) and harmful fluids in the shoreline building.

The planner told council that oversight for many of the proposed amendments will be difficult.

“I’ll think you will see that will kind of be the common theme with a lot of these things, that it’s going to be difficult for the municipality to have oversight on some of these things,” Iles said. “Which might lead to increased enforcement or have enforcement difficulties.

While council approved some of the planner’s recommendations, they pushed back on others, including the mandatory minimum setback of four-metres for all structures, and allowing drainless saunas.

The changes to the shoreline protections policy remain only a proposal for now. Another public open house is set to be held later this year, allowing council members to gather more feedback from residents and property owners before deciding whether to adopt the proposed amendments.

Share moments, not measles.
Measles is a contagious virus and it's spreading.
But there's good news, the measles vaccine is safe, highly effective and can provide life-long protection from measles.
Vaccination doesn't just protect you, it also protects your family and your community, especially at-risk groups like babies or people with weakened immune systems.
Contact your local public health unit to check your vaccination status or book a vaccine appointment today.
ontario.ca/measles
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The Sound of the Pipes

The Haliburton Highlands Pipes and Drums Band continues to meet weekly at Head Lake Park for practice over the summer months. Since 1972, the bagpipe band has been adding sounds to the Haliburton Highlands, and continues to offer lessons to anyone interested, free of charge. "We're always looking to grow our band, and support anyone interested in learning," said Andrew Mansfield, the current Pipe Major. "It's a great way to meet some new people, and to learn a new instrument."
No experience is necessary to join the band, and all ages and stages are welcome. The band meets on Thursday evenings in Head Lake Park, at 7 p.m., and all are welcome to listen in on the practice, or come out to meet the band. /ADAM FRISK staff

Kosy Korner set to celebrate 90 years

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Kosy Korner is preparing to celebrate 90 years in Haliburton Village later this month, and the restaurant wants the public to be part of the celebration.

The iconic restaurant has become a long-standing local institution on Highland Street and is set to celebrate its 90th year in operation on Aug. 12.

To celebrate the milestone, staff are currently seeking memories from the public who have enjoyed a meal or two at Kosy Korner, or perhaps even had worked there at some point over the years.

"We're looking for stories from those who have been coming here for years," owner Brendon Clarke said in a July 28 interview. "We have had people coming here since they were a kid and now they're 88 years old."

Established in 1935, the community staple is known for its homestyle meals, serving up all-day breakfast, and roasted turkey daily. The restaurant also offers a welcoming, cozy atmosphere with rustic decor. Despite a couple of changes in ownership over the decades, Kosy Korner has always maintained its traditional feel.

People are invited to share their stories through the family restaurant's Facebook page or send them an email at kosykorners2024@gmail.com. Customers can also fill out a page in person perhaps while enjoying some all–day breakfast or famed roasted turkey dinner.

Municipality of Dysart et al
Tenders

The Municipality of Dysart et al invites vendors to submit bids for any or all tenders:

- **2025-PW-14 Mechanical Brushing on Various Municipal Roads**
  (Closes August 13th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.)
- **2025-PW-15 Supply of One Tandem Axle Truck with Snowplow Equipment**
  (Closes August 13th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.)

Register at no cost, view all bid opportunities, and submit your bid online at:
dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca
Printed or emailed submissions are not accepted

Review our "how-to" guide at
www.dysartetal.ca/bidshowto

Municipality of Dysart et al
705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Harcourt Landfill Attendant – Part Time Casual Employment

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our Public Works team in the role of landfill attendant at our Harcourt station.

The Landfill Attendant will promote waste diversion programs, ensure health and safety, assist with operations, keep records, and provide exceptional customer service including processing payments.

This is a casual position offering flexible scheduling, with varying hours based on operational needs. This role does not have a guaranteed minimum number of hours per week. The rate of pay is
$23.23/hour.

A detailed job description can be found on our careers page: www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal- government/careers

Interested persons can apply by submitting a resume to Human Resources Manager, Sonja Marx by email smarx@dysartetal.ca no later than 12:30pm Friday August 8, 2025.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

Pictured, an early photo of a printing shop creating a copy of the *Haliburton Echo*. Prior to Google Docs and emails, the newspapers were put together using a letterpress and an abundance of black ink. /FILE

The power of printmaking at MHCC

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Styles, technology, trades and trends come and go with each passing year.

But one thing that's never going out of style, is the art and craft of the press. At least, we hope not.

And others feel the same way. On July 24, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre hosted their first community heritage speakers series of the summer, featuring Jack Brezina and Natalia Brown.

On the surface, the two speakers may not seem to have a lot in common, aside from their mutual residence of Minden Hills.

But once they started speaking, you could see the overlap.

Brown spoke to the topic of modern printmaking, "using not so modern methods," she laughed.

While she works as a music teacher by day, Brown has jumped head first into the niche world of letterpress printing. While she referenced her long-standing interest in pieces from the past, including an impressive collection of typewriters, she also introduced her printmaking machines, Chuck and Freddie Prints Jr.

As she dove into the rich and winding history of printmaking, Brown noted that the oldest dated book to be printed with woodblocks was called the *Diamond Sutra,* discovered in China to be from 868 CE.

Moveable type was introduced once again in China in the early 1000s, using ceramic, wood, and metal. But it wasn't until Johannes Gutenberg came onto the scene in the early 1400s that printmaking really started to take off, with the mass production of the Bible.

The Gutenberg printing press came with a number of novel ideas, such as an oil based ink for metal type, an alloy to use for typecasting, and the development of kerning (spaces between letters).

The Bible itself was 1288 pages, mostly spread over two volumes. An estimated 160 to 185 copies were made, with 49 still existing in various forms, and 21 being complete.

The most recent auction for a complete (two volume) Bible sold publicly was in 1978, for $2.2 million, and the most recent single volume sold was in 1987 for $5.4 million. The power of the printing press.

Natalia Brown and Jack Brezina take a moment to connect following their presentation on July 23 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. /submitted

Brown was captivated by the world of ink and paper, and has committed to a side-job of creating greeting cards, invitations, postcards, and art pieces on her original, turn of the century machines.

Recently, she partnered with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre to create postcards for their visiting students, with sketches of the iconic buildings and the opportunity for students to stamp their own names on the one-of-a-kind keepsake.

Instilling the love of ink and paper to the next generation.

This is something that brought joy to Jack Brezina.

The next speaker of the evening, Brezina brought his side of the story when it comes to tangible ink to paper practices, as the owner, publisher, and editor for the *Minden Times* for 22 years.

He dove into the colourful history of the paper known and loved by many today, noting that the *Times* got its start as the *Minden Progress*, which was first published on Jan. 30, 1963.

"Initially the paper had no office, just a Minden post office box," noted Brezina. "The preparation was done at the contributors' homes before being taken to Stevens' printing shop in Fenelon Falls, where it was laid out and printed."

A tie back to the presentation from Brown, and the significance of ink to paper.

When the *Progress* first started, it was run twice monthly, but in 1965, it was sold to Al Grier, who made it a weekly paper, and moved the office to Minden, housed in what was formerly Sunny's Variety. "The structure stood next to where the Shapiera law office is now located," said Brezina. "In its final days, it was painted an eye-arresting fuchsia, or was it lime green, and has since been blessedly removed," he chuckled.

Brezina shared that Grier ran the paper until 1973, when he sold it to former *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star* reporter Bill Foote, who unfortunately ran into some problems, allowing the paper to go bankrupt by 1978. "Not an uncommon event in small town publications," said Brezina.

Fortunately, Grenville Stamp of West Guilford and Minden entrepreneur and at that time Lutterworth Township Reeve, Ron Gambell, saw an opportunity. Brezina noted that beyond a business deal, the duo saw the importance of Minden having a local voice, and decided to save the sinking operation. "To distinguish themselves from the previous owners, the partners decided to rename the paper the *Times*," said Brezina.

Brezina took ownership of the *Times* on June 4, 1979, and the rest, is history. He moved his family from northern Ontario to the quaint community of Minden, and worked long hours with his wife and kids with typewriters and letterpresses. Brezina shone light on his career at the helm of the *Times*, from the idiosyncrasies of small-town life, to the counter-protest against right-wing extremists that caught national and international attention.

Ink to paper, and the power of the press. Styles, technology, trades and trends come and go with each passing year.

But one thing that's never going out of style, is the art and craft of the press. At least, we hope not.

Minden Whitewater Preserve set to host international competition

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The Minden Whitewater Preserve is prepping to having athletes from around the world hitting the waters next weekend. /ADAM FRISK staff

The Minden Whitewater Preserve is gearing up for an international competition where athletes from around the world are set to take on the challenging rapids of the Gull River.

Athletes from across Canada and from several countries, including New Zealand, Germany and the U.S. are hitting the Gull River for a three-day canoe-kayak competition.

"The Minden race is a Canadian national race, it's part of the national ranking," Canoe Kayak Canada's James Cartwright said in a July 30 interview. "It's also an ICF international ranking race where international paddlers and Canadian paddlers can participate and they get rank and points that go into the world ranking."

About 50 paddlers will take on the 800-metres of challenging whitewater from Aug. 6 to 9 at the preserve.

"It's going to be the biggest race we have had there since the nationals, in 2023," Cartwright explained. "So we're looking forward to it. We are making an effort to try to expand our ability to host international races, we would like to have a PanAm championship in the future and this is a good opportunity for us to practice running events at that standard."

The Minden Whitewater Preserve, which is privately owned and operated by Whitewater Ontario, was established in 1979 and is considered one of the top natural slalom courses in the world. It has a long history of hosting significant whitewater events including the 2015 Pan American Games canoe slalom events.

The Gull River's natural rapids were modified through extensive "renovations" to the stream bed, creating a man-made engineered slalom course.

"It's a fabulous whitewater facility, we're very fortunate to have something like that in Ontario," Cartwright said. "The athletes really enjoy racing on it, it's fast, it's pretty, it's in nature so we're surrounded by trees, which is always nice when you get to race in that kind of environment.

"A lot of the races that our athletes and coaches go to internationally end up being on less natural courses and not a pretty environment so I think the athletes are much more relaxed and feel more like they're in nature so that's really special about Minden," Cartwright said.

Director of Minden Whitewater Reserve, Dave Gillespie, explained in a telephone interview that the 100-acre park and preserve took about five years to complete, from 1979 to about 1983, after the land was purchased from two Americans. More than 30 campsites were put into the park, along with hiking and mountain bike trails. Part of the property is owned by Whitewater Ontario and part of it is leased from Orillia Power Generation.

"When the river was modified, it was one of the first ones in North America ever to be modified," Gillespie said. "The river as a result has become internationally known for whitewater athletes."

Locally, the park is a sports association that offers hiking trails, the occasional kayak lessons for small groups or one-on-ones for its members. There are also 35 campsites available for members of Whitewater Ontario to use for $25 a night.

"We present an opportunity for people who enjoy outdoor activity to have access to a private piece of property for a low rate per night and people can have a campfire, can hike on the trails," Gillespie said. "People can enjoy the mountain bike trails or kayaking in a peaceful, unique area."

Gillespie explained the preserve is usually at or near capacity on weekends throughout the summer with members and whitewater athletes honing their skills. But during the week, there's usually spots open for outdoor enthusiasts like mountain bikers, road cyclists, hikers and photographers who are looking to get away from the city and enjoy a peaceful setting.

On the other side of the river, there's a public path that follows the 800-metre whitewater course, with several benches and vantage points where residents and visitors can take in the action during events.

Athletes will be on the course on Friday and Saturday for the event.

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Art show captures a lifetime of experiences

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

For Glena Koehler, it's always been art.

Drawing, painting, sketching, ceramics. Anything, everything, it's always been art.

And now, at the age of 82, the Algonquin Highlands resident wants to share her collection.

On Aug. 10 at the Stanhope Community Centre, Koehler will be showcasing and selling her lifetime of creations. The collection of pieces will range from $50 to $200, and will outline the many chapters and experiences she's had over her years.

She knew she wanted to sell her work, but, she also knew she wanted to give back to her community. "A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Brooksong Cancer Retreat Centre," she said.

But let's start at the beginning. Koehler grew up in Flint, Michigan. "I remember when I was very, very young, I was captivated by a painting of a young woman, a portrait." She recalls making an effort to do everything in her youthful power to replicate that image, until she felt proud of her work.

She then began drawing images for children's magazines, and she realized that her art also captured the attention of writers and publishers. "My first love has always been drawing," she said.

When Koehler was nearing the end of her high school career in the U.S., she attended a school dance, where she met a young engineer who was doing a placement at General Motors. And of course, he was a Canadian. "We dated for seven years, while I stayed and studied in Flint, and he went back to Canada," recalled Koehler.

Before long, the lifelong American made the move to Canada, and the two married and settled in Montreal. They went on to have two children, a son and a daughter, who they raised in the city.

But Koehler knew that she wasn't done with the arts world just yet. As a mature student, after her own kids had grown, she returned to Concordia University to achieve her bachelor of fine arts, a program she graduated from in 1992. "That was very fruitful," she shared. "It was kind of a 'follow your dreams' kind of thing to do."

Much of the art that Koehler is set to sell is from that era of her artistic endeavours. Drawing, painting, water colour. "Hopefully seeing these pieces will stimulate some creative energy for the viewer," she said.

In 2002, Koehler and her husband, along with their family, made the move from Montreal to Wren Lake in Algonquin Highlands, settling around a property where they shared a family cottage over the years. "We all love the outdoors," she said, noting that she and her husband were long-time caretakers of the Frost Centre ski trails. "We're very involved in the outdoors, but we have a cultural side as well as a nature side."

Because for Glena Koehler, it's always been art. The opportunity for expression, to follow your dreams, to create a piece with a story.

She hopes that others feel the same way about her artistic journey, and she looks forward to sharing her creative expression with the community.

Koehler's art show will be held on Aug. 10 at the Stanhope Community Centre. Art will be available for purchase between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and all are welcome to attend.

"I hope I can inspire some people to explore art," she said. "It's never too late to become expressive."

> ***"Hopefully seeing these pieces will stimulate some creative energy for the viewer ..."***
>
> — Glena Koehler

Glena Koehler with one of her pieces from her time studying art in Montreal. These pieces will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going towards Brooksong Cancer Retreat Centre, on Aug. 10. /submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	4	6	7	1	5	2	3	8
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5	9	8	6	7	1	4	2	3
7	6	4	5	2	3	9	8	1
6	8	3	2	5	7	1	4	9
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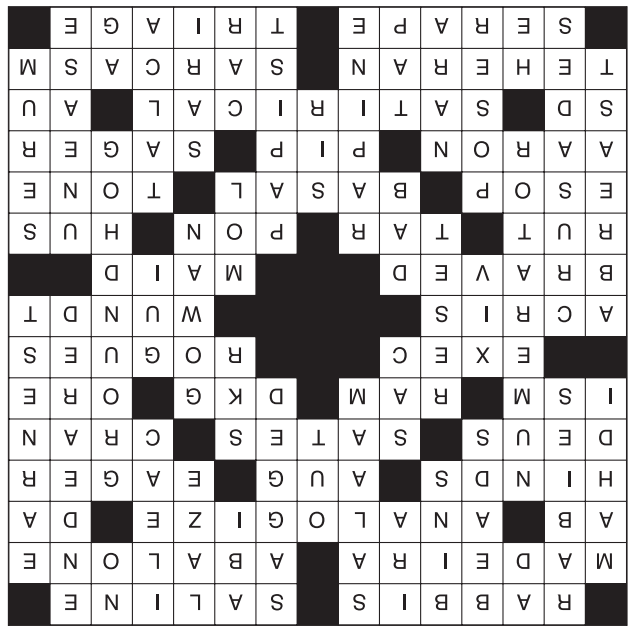
CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Books and Brews: the fastest growing book club in Carnarvon

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Last year, Haliburton Highlands Brewing moved from Abbey Gardens to the building beside Francis Thomas Contracting in Carnarvon. With significantly more seating area than their previous location, the brewery's front of house manager Heather Sedgwick and her team brainstormed events to bring more people into the brewery.

While several of their ideas were farfetched, Sedgwick says that idea for a book club stuck with her, and so she reached out to Shawna Gamblen, programming and Outreach Coordinator with the Haliburton County Public Library. Thus, the Books and Brews book club event with the library was born.

Fully supporting the program, Gamblen offered the list of book club sets of books. Due to their massive popularity and limited number of book club's book sets, Sedgwick was forced to quickly choose the list of books that the club will be reading for the entire year.

Sedgwick considers herself a big reader, with *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee claiming the title for her favourite book.

"I have read it eight or nine times," said Sedgwick.

Currently the club has 12 members that meets on the second Wednesday of every month, she said. Most recently, the club has read books including *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club, North Woods* and *Killers of a Certain Age*. Members range widely in age from some in their 30s, to those in their 60s. Residents from all over the county participate, with the biggest majority coming from Minden and Haliburton.

With only eight physical copies available to the club, several members have chosen to rent audiobooks from the library and listen to them while heading to and from work.

"The first question we will ask is what you think of the book and that just gets the conversation going," said Sedgwick. "It is not just about the story, but how it is told."

North Woods by Daniel Mason was a highly divisive novel. With the plot following a property rather than specific characters, several members did not feel the need to finish the book. Another did not enjoy the repetitive poetry inclusions that Mason repeats throughout the novel.

"Other than *North Woods*, everybody has really enjoyed all of the books," said Sedgwick with a laugh.

With Killers of a Certain Age, Sedgwick says that the younger book club members felt that the novel was quite campy, whereas the older members felt that it was funny. Other novels have dealt with the loss of children and family members and Sedgwick says that many members have opened up about themselves and feel as though the group is closely connected.

"The most current book is always the favourite one," said Sedgwick.

Sedgwick's favourite part of the book club is that she can have a social outing at her place of work.

"It is kind of fun to have the book club to look forward to each month," said Sedgwick. "It is kind of nice to have different tastes and inputs so that we don't have the same style of books we are reading."

> ***"The group that is here is amazing. Everybody is very respectful of everyone else's opinions and outlooks on the books."***
>
> — Heather Sedgwick, Haliburton Highlands Brewing

Sedgwick assures that while the members can be divided in their opinion, no fights have broken out. Everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts, especially about disappointing endings.

Growing in size, Sedgwick says that one member is even bringing a friend from out of town, with the book from her own local library to participate in the discussion.

"Shawna has been really good. She checks in and makes sure things are going well ," said Sedgwick.

Gamblen has even offered that the club's books be delivered to the Stanhope location of the library to make it easier on the members.

A huge success, the book club continues to run throughout the summer.

"If you have plans, you have plans but we have had a really good group. The smallest we have had is seven," said Sedgwick.

All of the members read at different paces. Whether you are a voracious bookworm or someone looking to dip their toe in the hobby of reading, Books and Brews is welcome to anyone.

"You don't know how things are going to be received, but we have met some really wonderful people who have started to join for other events," said Sedgwick.

Other events at Haliburton Highlands Brewing include their Stich and Sip event, Ukelele Night, famous Bingo dinner event, and regular music nights. Once a month, they even have a bellydance workshop.

"Just come. Everybody is so welcoming," said Sedgwick. "The group that is here is amazing. Everybody is very respectful of everyone else's opinions and outlooks on the books."

Free to all participants, the Books and Brews book club meets every second Wednesday of the month. This month's book is *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain. Everyone is welcome to read the book in any format you desire and come out to the event on Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Haliburton Highlands Brewing is located at 15543 Highway 35 in Carnarvon and is a family-run business that serves award-winning beers.

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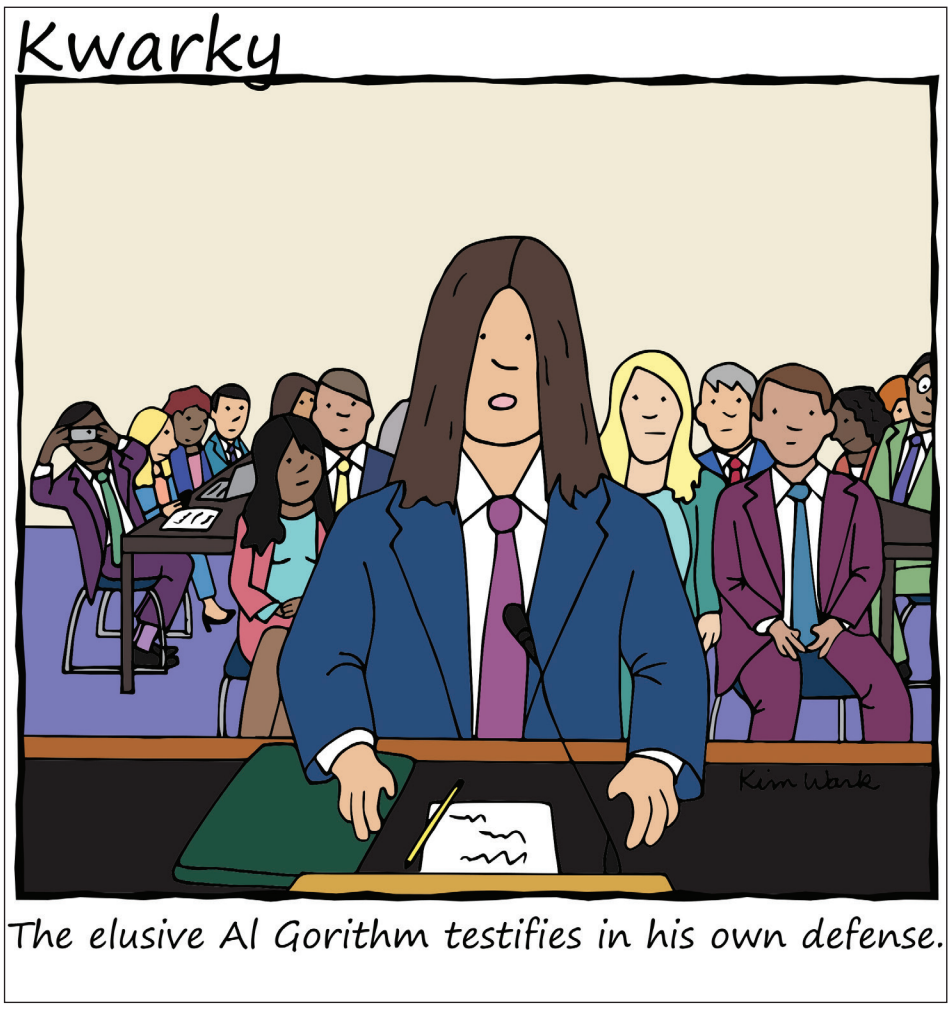

The elusive Al Gorithm testifies in his own defense.

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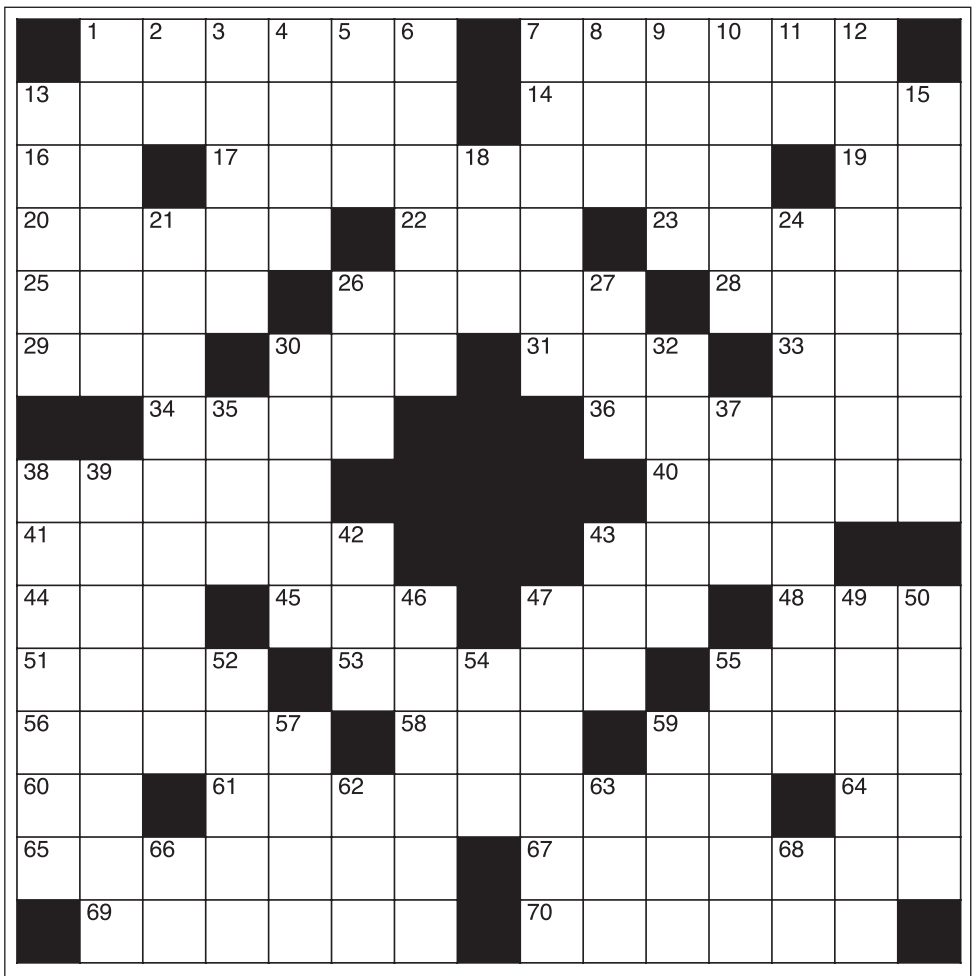
Answers on page 16



CLUES ACROSS
1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. State lawyer
20. ÒGame of ThronesÓ actor Ciaran
22. Eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Mountain in New Zealand
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. One of the founders of modern psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Partner to feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankee great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Gold
65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace materials
4. Containers
5. Investment account
6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury category (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Muslim spiritual leader
15. Showing sincere conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)
30. Start over
32. Wild white flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)
38. Side by side and facing the same way
39. Religious conflicts
42. Touch lightly
43. ÒBoardwalk EmpireÓ actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Japanese city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer

Answers on page 16

Stolen vehicle located on North Shore Road

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are looking for information that may assist in identifying persons in relation to a stolen vehicle investigation.

On July 14, at approximately 4:12 p.m. officers were dispatched to a single motor vehicle collision that occurred on North Shore Road in Algonquin Highlands Township. Officers attended the scene of a single motor vehicle collision where a white Hyundai Elantra had struck several trees and came to rest on the shoulder of the road. Officers learned that three suspects had fled from the vehicle after the collision. Suspects were not located at the scene and remain outstanding at this time.

Any drivers or witnesses that were in the area around that time with dashcams or security cameras are being asked to check their footage for any suspicious activity.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or have information that might assist with this ongoing investigation is asked to contact Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Kawartha Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.khcrimestoppers.com .

The investigation is on-going at this time.

Submitted

Boating collision on Kennisis Lake leads to impaired operation charge

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged an individual with impaired operation after responding to a boating collision on Kennisis Lake.

In the early hours on July 27, officers responded to a boating collision on Kennisis Lake, where three individuals sustained non-life-threatening injuries after the boat they were travelling in struck an island.

As a result of the investigation, a 20-year-old female from Bobcaygeon was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration over 80

The consequences of impaired operation are the same whether you are behind the wheel of a car or operating a vessel.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP would like to remind everyone to practice safe boating. This includes always wearing a life jacket and staying sober while on the water. OPP officers will be actively patrolling both roadways and waterways throughout the summer to help keep our communities safe. If you suspect someone is driving or boating while impaired, call 9-1-1.

For more information on boating safety, visit www.opp.ca or follow us on social media.

Submitted

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on August 15, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Thayer (née Henwood)

Resident of Haliburton

With deep love and fond remembrance, the family of Dorothy Helen Thayer announces her peaceful passing, surrounded by family, on July 27, 2025, at the age of 94.

Born on November 1st, 1930, in Hamilton, Ontario, Dorothy was the eldest of two children born to Leslie Garnet and Hazel Olive Henwood. After graduating from McMaster University, Dorothy began her teaching career at Haliburton County District High School in 1953. In 1954, she married fellow teacher George Harold "Bud" Thayer, pausing to raise a family before returning to teach students at both Archie Stouffer and JD Hodgson elementary schools.

Leaving Presbyterian roots behind her, Dorothy joined her husband in attending St. George's Anglican Church, which she made her lifelong home of worship. Dorothy's strong Christian beliefs were lived out through her kindness, generosity, and the endless patience she showed in loving, raising, and giving wings to her five children. Known for her warmth and wit, Dorothy travelled the world but always returned to Haliburton, a community where she was deeply rooted and served with joy. She devoted time to the St. George's prayer shawl ministry, volunteered at 4Cs, and hosted Bible studies and creative devotions.

Over the years, Dorothy delighted in time spent with family and friends. She loved playing bridge, and was a passionate quilter, sewer and connoisseuse of fabrics. Her ferocious Scrabble game was legendary. Her home was open to all, whether friends, family, or visitors from abroad.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband, Bud Thayer; her brother Don Henwood (Lyn); and her sister-in-law Doris Greer (Fred). She is survived by her children: George (Judy); John (Lorraine); Marilyn (Bob); Mark (Barb); Kirk (Nancy), and her nephews: Joe, Tim, Jim, and Dave, their spouses and children. She is also remembered by her grandchildren: Justin (Anna); Laura (Terral); Stephen; Ben (Julie); Daniel; Emily (Keith); Becky; David; Sam; Sarah (Kirk); Carter; Carson; and many cherished great-grandchildren.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a visitation celebrating Dorothy's life from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Friday, August 1, 2025. A Funeral Service will be held at **ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 617 Mountain St, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0, on Saturday, August 2nd at 10:30 am, the service will also be livestreamed**. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Dorothy's memory can be made to the Haliburton 4C's, St. George's Anglican Church, or a charity of your choice.

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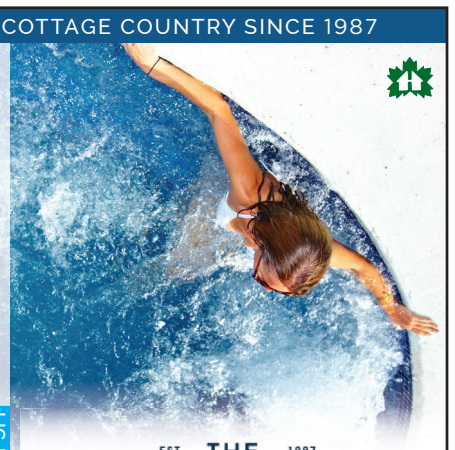

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Board wrestles with representation

New distribution could see Minden gain one trustee at Dysart's expense

The Haliburton County Board of Education will be meeting again tomorrow night to wrestle with the issue of trustee representation after discussions last Thursday ended in stalemate.

The board has been directed by the Ministry of Education to work out a new system of trustee representation that will be based on population rather than assessment. And although the ministry has provided guidelines for the board to follow, the requirements leave a surprising amount of room for the board to manoeuvre.

The basic number of trustees serving on the board will remain the unchanged following the civic election this November. However, the number of trustees representing each of the 10 municipalities could very well change.

At last Thursday's meeting, there was a general agreement that all municipalities should be represented by at least one trustee, with the exception of Cardiff and Bicroft, which have shared a trustee in the past. However, there was a good deal of disagreement when it appeared that Dysart Township would be losing one of its five trustees and Anson, Hindon and Minden would be gaining one.

Education Director Stuart Baker explained that the present system is based on representation by assessment. This system leaves Dysart Township with five trustees, Minden with two, and Stanhope, Lutterworth, Snowdon, Monmouth, Glamorgan and Sherborne each with one. Bicroft and Cardiff share one trustee, and a fifteenth trustee, representing that area's separate school also sits on the board.

Although ministry guidelines indicate that 12 trustees would be suitable for the county, the board is given the leeway to add or subtract up to two trustees from that number. At Thursday's meeting the board passed a resolution requesting that the number of trustees remain at 14.

Put simply, representation by population in Haliburton County means each municipality should elect one trustee for every 853 of its permanent residents. Of course, in practice, it does not work out quite so neatly.

Using this formula, the number of trustees which should represent the municipalities is as follows: Dysart, 4.65; Minden, 3.18; Stanhope, 1.12; Lutterworth, .93; Snowdon, .86; Monmouth, .82; Cardiff, .66; Bicroft, .64; Glamorgan, .63; and Sherborne, .51.

Assuming that Bicroft and Monmouth continue to share one trustee and the other six smaller municipalities each get one trustee, that would leave only seven to be split among Minden and Dysart. And here is where the disagreement began and ended at Thursday's meeting.

According to the guidelines from the ministry, trustees can choose to round off fractions in either direction to the next whole number. This means that Dysart could be rounded off down to four trustees while Minden could not have fewer than three. That would leave Dysart with one less trustee, while Minden would gain one.

Dysart trustee Len Salvatori immediately objected to this. And when a show of hands was called for later, there were six other trustees who sided with him.

However, when a second informal vote was taken moments later, seven trustees indicated they would be satisfied with this shift in representation. In either case, a formal motion would have been defeated, since support from three quarters of all trustees would be needed for this to be carried.

Salvatori and the six trustees who backed his feelings are in favour of maintaining the status quo. And according to Stuart Baker, it may be

(more on page 7)

MNR has surprise visit from ministers

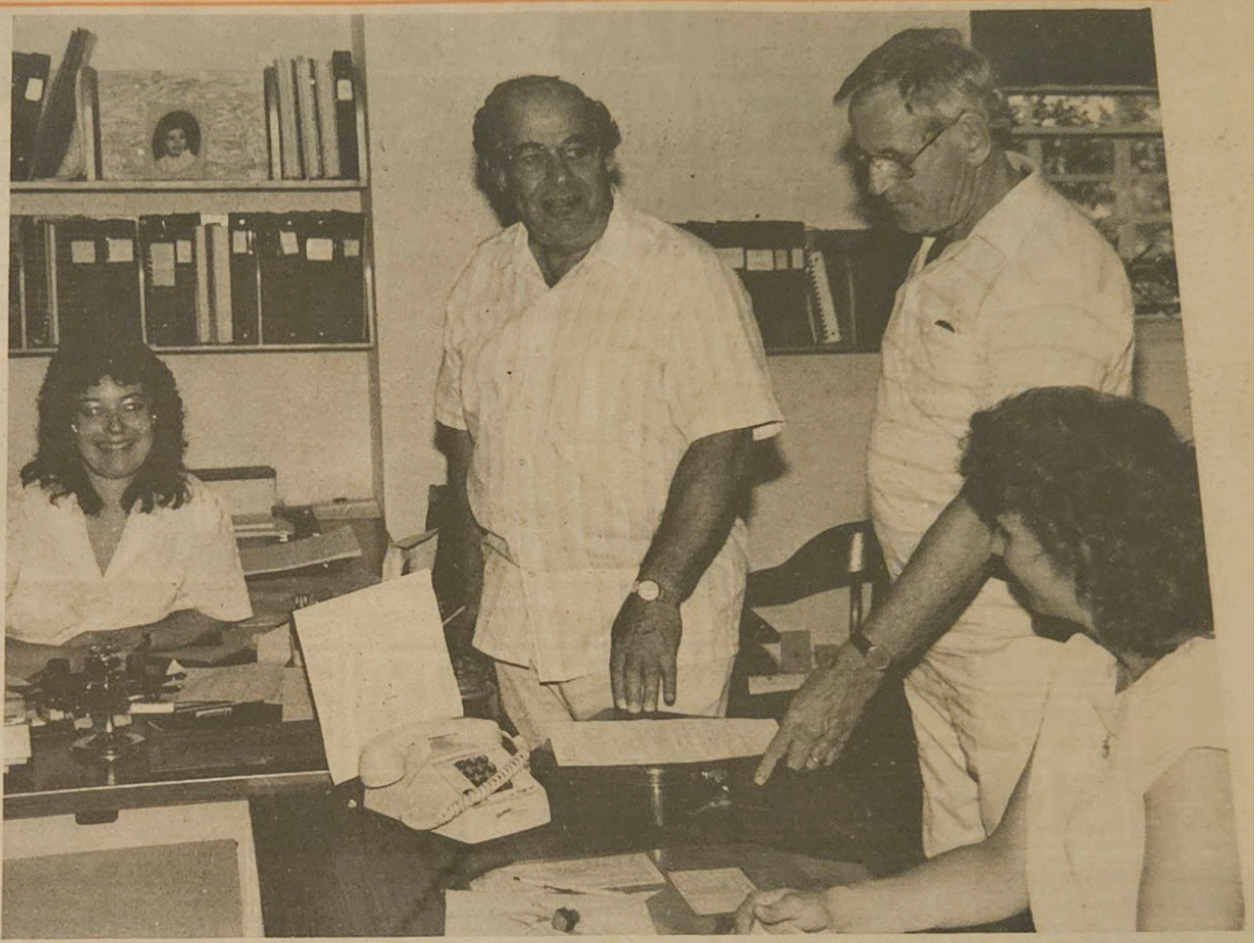
Victoria - Haliburton MPP John Eakins is proud of his riding and whenever possible, he likes to show it off to his colleagues at Queen's Park.

Last Tuesday it was Minister of Natural Resources Vince Kerrio who was being treated to a brief stay in the Highlands, and during his visit, he and Eakins took the opportunity to stop in at the local Natural Resources office.

Kerrio, who hails from the Niagara Falls area, says he has long-time ties with northern Ontario and especially with this area. He was visiting with Eakins at his home on Four Mile Lake and they decided to drop in at the Ministry offices in Minden and Lindsay.

"I'm interested in all the branches," said Kerrio. "An office like this is a miniature of the whole ministry." He likes to meet the personnel that work for the ministry and try to get a feel for the local concerns.

After touring the Minden office, Kerrio said he is proud of the depth of talent here. This office is very much self sufficient because its staff have such a wide variety of expertise, he said.



Minister of Natural Resources Vincent Kerrio, along with Victoria-Haliburton MPP John Eakins, made a surprise visit to the local ministry office last Tuesday morning.

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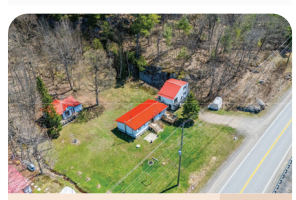

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